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Desertification

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PROPOSALS ON HOW TO REVISE THE NATIONAL REPORTS HELP GUIDE, WITH THE AIM OF PROVIDING GUIDANCE TO PARTIES TO ENSURE THAT THE ACTIVITIES OF SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITIES AND INSTITUTIONS ARE BETTER REFLECTED IN THEIR NATIONAL REPORTS

Note by the secretariat

1. On the recommendation of the Committee on Science and Technology, the Conference of the Parties requested the secretariat of the Convention to revise the National Reports Help Guide to enable Parties to ensure that the activities of scientific and technical institutions and communities were better reflected in their national reports (decision 10/COP.4, of 22 December 2001, paragraph 7).

2. Pursuant to paragraphs 5 and 6 of that decision, the secretariat proposes the inclusion, in the table entitled "Strategies and priorities established within the framework of sustainable development plans and/or policies" of document ICCD/COP(3)/INF.3, of new indicators, evaluation parameters and other elements. This revision will enable Parties to include in their national reports information on scientific and technical desertification control activities undertaken at all levels, and to incorporate information on progress achieved in implementing the recommendations of the Committee on Science and Technology.

3. The Committee may wish to consider this revision, contained in the annex to the present note, and to make suggestions on material for final inclusion in document ICCD/COP(3)/INF.3.

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Annex

Proposed additions to the table on item (iii): Strategies and priorities established within the framework of sustainable development plans and/or policies

Indicators	Evaluation parameters	Remarks	Questions
Scientific and technical desertification control activities	Listing, adapting and integrating scientific and technical activities into the NAP	Scientific and technical activities should be analysed to verify their compliance with the principles of the Convention Adaptation and integration of technical and scientific programmes in the NAP and national reports for consideration by the Conference of the Parties	• Which scientific and technical activities relating to desertification control and drought mitigation have been identified under the NAP? • Have the scientific and technical desertification control activities been considered with a view to determining their conformity with the principles of the Convention? If so, how and by whom was this done? • What proposals have been made to integrate the scientific and technical community in the NAP process? • What arrangements have been made to adapt the scientific and technical activities under way to the NAP process? • Have the scientific and technical desertification control activities specifically recommended in the NAP been implemented, what progress have they made and what are their results and impact? • What consultation procedures have been implemented with the scientific and technical community? • What mechanism has been set in place to facilitate consultation?

Indicators	Evaluation parameters	Remarks	Questions
Implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on Science and Technology	Assessment of progress made in implementing the recommendations of the Committee on Science and Technology Number of activities and recommendations of CST used in combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought, for example: • Development and use of benchmarks and indicators which should not be only physical and biological, but also address institutional matters, including legislative, social and economic issues, such as the qualitative and quantitative assessment of the participation of civil society; • Promotion, use and enhancement of traditional knowledge; • Use or need to use early warning systems for drought management; • Training and field studies to identify pilot sites to be used in supplementing information and data on desertification generated by such advanced technology as remote sensing and geographical and environmental information systems	In presenting essential activities, projects and programmes under way or envisaged to address the underlying causes or to remedy the visible effects of desertification, with a view to drawing lessons and to popularizing the scientific and technical methods used, it is recommended that the following points be stressed: • Illustration of South-South and North-South collaboration activities, highlighting the advantages of information exchange and the transfer of technology and technical know-how; • Presenting strategies and approaches used to collect, popularize and disseminate information with a view to mobilizing and raising awareness and promoting, using and enhancing traditional knowledge in order to combat desertification; • Presenting existing or envisaged methods and activities based on synergy or collaboration with other multilateral environmental agreements, in particular, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	What lessons have been drawn from implementing the recommendations of CST, in particular in respect of the following: • Benchmarks and indicators; • Traditional knowledge; • Early warning systems; • Training and field studies to identify pilot sites? What use has been made of experts from the roster of independent experts drawn up by the secretariat?